

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/665,224

Examiner

Thoi V. Duong

Applicant(s)

TAKEDA ET AL.

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/02/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) ~~is/are~~ 1-7 and 32.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/047,216.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/02/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 02, 2006 has been entered.

Claims 8-31 and 33 were cancelled and claims 1-7 and 32 are currently pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-7 and 32 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art of record fairly suggests or shows all of the limitations as claimed. Specifically,

Re claims 1 and 32, none of the prior art of record discloses, in combination with other limitations as claimed, a liquid crystal display device (as well as a liquid crystal orientation method of liquid crystal molecules of a liquid crystal layer in the same) in which when a direction of an orientation regulating force given to liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer within a region of said pixel electrode taken as a first direction and a direction of an orientation regulating force due an edge of said pixel electrode on said first substrate given to said liquid crystal molecules near said edge taken as a second direction, an orientation control element giving an orientation

Art Unit: 2871

regulating force in a third direction which counteracts said orientation regulation force in said second direction is locally provided in a part near said edge.

The most relevant reference, USPN 6,567,144 B1 to Kim et al. (Kim), fails to disclose that an orientation control element giving an orientation regulating force in a third direction which counteracts said orientation regulation force in said second direction is locally provided in a part near said edge. As shown in Figs. 5, 7 and 8, Kim discloses an orientation control element 171 giving an orientation regulating force in a third direction which counteracts an orientation regulation force due to an edge 19 of the pixel electrode 20 in a second direction; however, the orientation control element 171 is provided on the second substrate 100 instead of being (locally) provided in a part near said edge 19 of the pixel electrode 20 on the first substrate 200.

Also, USPN 6,836,308 B2 issued to Sawasaki et al. discloses a similar structure where, as shown in Figs. 14 and 15, the orientation control element 16 is an auxiliary protrusion formed on the upper substrate instead of being (locally) provided in a part near the edge of the pixel electrode 10 formed on the lower substrate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thoi V. Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-

Art Unit: 2871

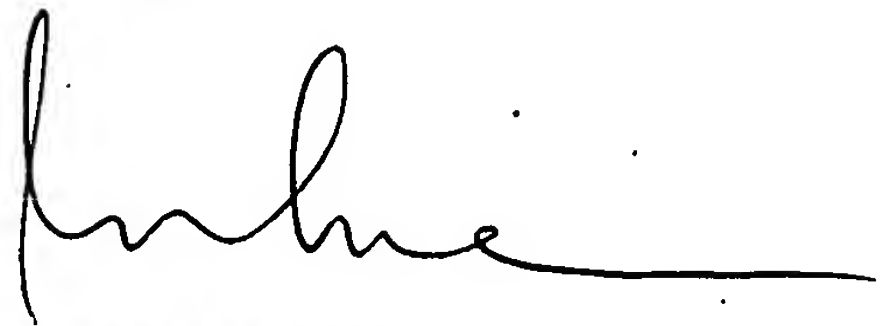
2292. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms, can be reached at (571) 272-1787.

Thoi Duong



8/01/2006



DUNG T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER